

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
U.S. Senator  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
U.S. Senator  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
U.S. Senator  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso  
U.S. Senator  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Chairman Manchin, and Ranking Member Barrasso:

We strongly urge you to oppose the confirmation of National Wildlife Federation (NWF) senior advisor Ms. Tracy Stone-Manning to serve as the director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Our primary goal is to see states, localities, and private interests manage far more of the nearly 250 million acres of public land BLM currently administers. We were therefore encouraged by the Trump administration's efforts to reform the Bureau, including its decision to move BLM's headquarters from Washington, D.C., to Grand Junction, Colorado. Considering the overwhelming majority of land the Bureau manages is in the West, this relocation made a lot of practical and symbolic sense.

However, Ms. Stone-Manning criticized this decision in a July 2019 NWF press release, stating that "an expensive and unnecessary relocation for the BLM is as irresponsible as it is ill-advised."<sup>1</sup> Her comments about former BLM acting director William Perry Pendley have also been harsh. Most significantly, an October 6, 2020, editorial in the *Great Falls Tribune* co-authored by Ms. Stone-Manning stated—among other

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<sup>1</sup> This statement is no longer accessible on the National Wildlife Federation website. However, press references to this comment may still be found. See, for example, Amy Joi O'Donoghue, "BLM Headquarters to Relocate to Colorado, Not Utah," *Deseret News*, July 16, 2019, <https://www.deseret.com/2019/7/16/8936635/blm-headquarters-to-relocate-to-colorado-not-utah> (accessed April 20, 2021).

inflammatory claims—that Mr. Pendley “pandered to oil and gas interests” when approving resource management plans in Montana.<sup>2</sup>

Instead of recognizing that conservation and robust energy development can—and should—go hand in hand, Ms. Stone-Manning clearly wants to return our nation to the restrictive policies of the past. In written testimony before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources last month, she praised five recently introduced House bills that would supposedly “go a long way towards addressing the systemic inefficiencies and inequities of the onshore leasing program.” The bills Ms. Stone-Manning highlighted variously increase royalty fees, reimpose regulations, and in other respects hinder our nation’s ability to secure a stable energy future.<sup>3</sup>

During the Trump administration, we witnessed robust public-private land and energy engagement that strengthened Western communities and created jobs. Now it seems we may be faced with a new BLM director who aims to reverse this promising trend—and may even go so far as to return the BLM headquarters to Washington.

We again urge you in the strongest terms to oppose Ms. Stone-Manning’s confirmation.

Sincerely,



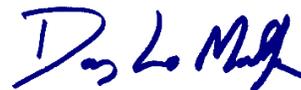
Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress



Ken Buck  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

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<sup>2</sup> Aubrey Bertram, Tracy Stone Manning, and Alec Underwood, “Plans William Perry Pendley Approved Must Now Be Revoked,” *Great Falls Tribune*, October 6, 2020, <https://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/opinion/2020/10/06/plans-william-perry-pendley-approved-must-now-revoked/5900022002/> (accessed April 20, 2021)

<sup>3</sup> *Modernizing Energy Development Laws for the Benefit of Taxpayers, Before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources*, 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, March 9, 2021 (Testimony of Tracy Stone-Manning, Senior Advisor for Conservation Policy, National Wildlife Federation). The bills referenced in Ms. Stone-Manning’s testimony were H.R. 1492, H.R. 1503, H.R. 1505, H.R. 1506, and H.R. 1517.



Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress